

Reading comprehension: (45 Points)

Question Number One: (25 points)

Read the text and do the tasks below:

I enjoyed reading the article 'Clinging to culture' and I'd like to add a few points of my own. It's often been observed that expatriates are more likely to show the outward signs of their culture than their fellow countrymen who stay at home. Think of Scotsmen in New Zealand who wear kilts, or English people in Spain who insist on drinking tea with milk and eating fish and chips, or 'Irish-Americans' who often seem more Irish than the Irish.

As a Welshman living in South America, I can understand why this happens. It's not that these people spend their time looking forward to 'going home': they're usually committed to living in the place they've chosen. They don't, for example, object to paying local taxes. They just have a need to hold on to what they see as an important part of their identities.

The same kind of need, I believe, happens with language. When I lived in the south of England, one of my neighbours was an old lady who had moved there from a northern town when she was quite young. Despite living in the south for over fifty years, her accent remained strongly northern. The reason, I think, is clear: being 'a northerner' was, unconsciously, an essential part of who she was.

Language teachers will tell you that learners often find pronunciation the hardest part of a foreign language, and I'm sure there's a connection. If, say, Italian learners of English start speaking with a 'correct' accent, they feel they are becoming more English, and therefore less Italian. Unless you actually want to change your identity, it's hard to let go. Just as an example, listen to French people who speak almost perfect English. However good they are, it's usually impossible to mistake them for anything other than French. The accent, it seems, is always the last thing to disappear.

1. Choose the correct answer:

(4 points)

1. The best title for the text is:

- a. The advantages and disadvantages of living abroad
- b. There is no place like home
- c. Culture, language and identity

2. The writer believes that:

- a. No one can ever speak a second language perfectly.
- b. It is natural for language learners to keep their accent.
- c. English is especially hard to pronounce for French people.

2. Complete the table about expatriates' behaviour :

(4 points)

Expatriates	What they do / How they behave
Scotsmen in New Zealand	
English people in Spain	
Irish – Americans	

Cont./2

3. Decide whether each of the following is True or False: (6 points)

1. Expatriates don't tend to show the outward sign of their culture as countrymen do. ()
2. According to the text, it is the desire of 'going home' that leads expatriates to cling to their culture. ()
3. According to the text, language and culture are essential parts of expatriates' identities. ()

4. Complete the following: (8 points)

1. The writer can understand the behaviour of expatriates because _____
2. Expatriates don't object to paying local taxes because _____
3. Italian learners of English feel they are becoming more English when _____
4. Although some French people speak perfect English, it's _____

5. Write what the following pronouns refer to: (3 points)

1. **who** (L. 3) _____
2. **there** (L.11) _____
3. **they** (L.16) _____